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ART INSTITUTE TO SELL MERYON ETCHINGS

WILL ESTABLISH FUND

Proceeds Will Go To John H. Wrenn Memorial; The Artist Meryon Was Queen Genius

Thirteen etchings by Charles Meryon, commonly called "the Paris Set," and presented to the Institute by the family of John H. Wrenn, are to be sold by the Art Institute. The proceeds will establish a fund known as the "John H. Wrenn Memorial" and the income from the fund will be used to purchase etchings, engravings and lithographs and others prints for the permanent collection of the Art Institute. The etchings are now on exhibit in the Print Room of the Art Institute but after January 1st they may be seen on application to the Director by anyone who wishes to examine them with a view to purchase.

Victor Hugo once wrote to Baudelaire: "Since you know M. Meryon tell him that his etchings have dazzled me. Without color, with nothing save light and shade, chairscuro pure and simple and left to itself, that is the problem of etching. M. Meryon has solved it magisterially. What he does is superb. His plates radiate, think."

Unfortunately poor Meryon suffered from a peculiar mental malady that developed before his death into dangerous insanity. He saw cabalistic symbols in everything and often put them into his work. In one of his most interesting etchings, "Le Pont au Change" of which there are eleven states, he etched on a balloon in the upper left hand corner the name "Speranza". This appears in the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth states. In the seventh it gives way in favor of a flock of small birds. These have again vanished in the tenth state and a flight of small balloons have taken their place. In the eleventh and last state more balloons have been added and on a larger one appears the name "Vasco da Gama." The Wrenn print is the first state.

Meryon was also a poet, or at least a writer of verses, many of which illustrate his gloomy and unsettled state of mind. A number of the etchings in the Wrenn group were originally intended for an album which he called "Eaux-Fortes sur Paris" or "Etchings around Paris", and were accompanied by verses which he had engraved for them on copper plates. The verse under "Le Strygge" reads, translated, "Lust, a foul vampire, insatiable and lewd

Forever over the city covets its obscene food."

"Le Strygge", or "The Gargoyle" is a juncture of one of those mediaeval monsters which were first placed on cathedrals to scare away demons, but which had come to be symbols of sin and misery to Meryon's brooding mind.

Verses were also composed for "La Morgue", a cheerless picture of "the hostelry of death", with men carrying a corpse in the foreground, and for "L'Abside de Notre Dame" or "The back of Notre Dame." La Morgue is especially interesting because it bears a dedication to Bracquemond from "his wholly devoted, C. Meryon." L'Abside de Notre Dame is from the Philippine Burty collection and the "Rue des Mauvais Garçons", or "Street of Bad Boys" is from the collection of the Duke of Arensburg.

FREIGHT RATE CUT ON C. & N. W. ROAD

Dairy Tariff Change May Be of Aid to Farmers in Lake County

Interstate freight rates on carload shipments were reduced the first of the year on certain commodities by the Chicago and North Western.

Reductions run approximately as follows: Wheat and grain products taking wheat rates, 13 per cent, corn, oats, rye, barley and products taking the same rate, 22 per cent; hay and straw, 13 per cent; live stock, except where previous reductions of 20 per cent have been made, 10 per cent; butter, eggs, cheese and poultry, 10 per cent; unmanufactured tobacco, 10 per cent; fruits and vegetables (exclusive of canned goods), 10 per cent; and wool, 10 per cent.

These rates are more for the large shipments of grain from the west and will not affect Lake county farmers to any great extent, as most of the grain raised in the county is for home consumption.

Dairy products are the only items that will aid the local farmers, if the state rates are adjusted in proportionate relationship to the interstate shipments. There has been no definite announcement on this yet, but there will be in the near future.

The disarmament conference started out like a love feast or a prize speaking contest, but latterly it has looked more like a horse trade or a poker game.

The parents who fail to send children to school need themselves to attend classes held from time to time in the police courts.

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